

**Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey**

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0091

Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

Significance Statement: This structure was built in 1945 as a magazine, a function that has continued into the present. The building is identified as “M-5” on the 1950 “Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia” prepared by the U.S. Navy. It was called the “Magazine” on the 1953 “Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia” by the U.S. Navy. The structure is located on the north side of the Wallops Flight Facility main base, in a fenced area, off a circular loop road that provides access to the other underground magazines built in the surrounding area.

This building is an example of a secondary structure associated with military use that gained importance in the New Dominion (1941-present) period and was one of several structures built on CNAAS following the end of World War II. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily-research based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. The building has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Underground Magazine has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It is not associated with any event or individual significant at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have any archaeological potential..

The resource retains its integrity of materials, design, and workmanship. The overall deterioration of the structure, and the vegetative growth above and around the structure, has adversely affected its overall feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the structure’s integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding setting of the base of which it was a part; by 2004 the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the structure’s historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

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DHR Id#: 001-0027-0091

Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: Giffels and Valet
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map
Author: U.S. Navy
Citation Abbreviation:
Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21537	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 16-18, 22

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2004/07/99
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
 Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey
Date: 2003/08/08
Organization or Person: URS Group
VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571
CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
 Bethesda, MD 20814